

TROOPS STRIKE GAIT

District Soldiers Have Busy Day at Camp Ordway.

STREETS "SPICK AND SHAN"

Yeoman Service Done by the Men, Who Enjoy the Strenuous Work After a Good Breakfast—Company and Battalion Drills Win Freedom for Evenings—Towns Visited.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

Camp Ordway, Bollinger Heights, Va., July 15.—The keynote of strenuous which characterizes all District militia camps was struck to-day, when field maneuvers were taken up by all the infantrymen. Three hours were devoted to work which would be immeasurably beneficial to the guardsmen in the time of actual warfare.

The entire camp was cleaned up this afternoon by the 1,400 guardsmen, and several army-wagon loads of rubbish were carted off. The general policing greatly improved the appearance of Camp Ordway. Every scrap of paper, stone, and stick was removed in remarkably short order, and the soldiers were ordered to keep the field in just the condition it was in after they had gone over it with shovel and rakes.

The field and staff officers were given a mounted drill about noon, and found that there was much for them and their horses to learn about field work. This drill, as well as the others, was supervised by Lieut. Col. Lloyd M. Brett, U. S. A., adjutant general of the militia, who has been detailed by the War Department as an instructor during this encampment.

Rainstorm Does No Damage.

Although the sun beamed down in all its fury throughout the day, a stiff wind blew over the camp from early morning and reached the proportions of a gale at sunset. This evening rain began to fall, but all tent ropes had been loosened and trenches dug, therefore no damage resulted from the downpour.

Promptly at 5:30 o'clock this morning reveille was sounded by Headquarters Bugler Fox, and taken up by the trumpeters in the camps of the two regiments and the Separate Battalion. Although wearied by their tiring experiences of yesterday, the guardsmen rolled off their bunks and jumped into their clothing in time for setting-up exercise and roll call. The morning mess consisted of eggs, potatoes, tomatoes, coffee, bread, and butter, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the militia men. Only a corporal's guard answered sick call, there being a few who suffered from indigestion, and one private who succumbed to the heat and overeating.

From 6 o'clock until 8 the guardsmen took things easy, the only duty they performed being rolling up tent flaps, cleaning up company streets, and making the inside of their tents presentable in case of an inspection by Gen. Harries or Maj. Hodgson, officer of the day.

Show up Well at Drill.

Coats were left in the tents when the soldiers shouldered their pieces and marched to the drill grounds for a spell of two hours. Col. Brett had considerably more men on the field than Col. Oursand, of the First Regiment, but the work of both organizations was characterized by quick execution of orders and willingness on the part of the guardsmen to work hard.

The extended order work necessitated much marching and shuffling about, and the heat was oppressive, but every one was on deck when recall was sounded. The greater part of the three hours was devoted to drilling in company formation. Many officers found it necessary to instruct their latest recruits in the art of handling a gun, and there were some in the rear ranks who could not keep perfect step, but the majority made a far more creditable showing than was expected. Col. Brett was all over the field, pointing out errors and applauding when the formation or execution was above the average. He declared this afternoon that the drilling was far better than he had thought it would be.

The battalions were reformed after two hours' work with the companies, then the majors and captains some work. At 11 o'clock the soldiers retired from the field, and shortly afterward the mounted officers went through their maneuvers.

Hold a Council of War.

The general policing came in the afternoon. Following it was the parade and review of the First Regiment before Col. Oursand and Lieut. Col. Reichelderfer. Officers reported at the headquarters of the colonels for instructions and discussion of camp work.

To-night, as was the case last evening, scores of soldiers went to Bollinger, or Harpers Ferry, to purchase camp perquisites, or call upon their friends. Last night a number of militiamen returned to quarters after taps, and many were without passes. They were taken in charge by the guard, but afterward delivered to their commanders, who gave them stiff reprimands and warned them against further violation of the regulations.

The brigade band, led by Prof. McLeod, appeared on Headquarters Hill in full dress white uniforms and gave a delightful concert, which was enjoyed by the visitors, who were here all day. The bandstand used by the Harpers Ferry Band has not yet been removed from the principal corner of the town. Prof. McLeod has been requested to take the band back there and give a concert or two, and may comply.

Information has reached Gen. Harries that the battery of artillery of the National Guard and the Third Battery, U. S. A., will arrive at Washington Junction, Md., to-morrow evening or Wednesday morning. The artillerymen express the hope of pitching tents here Thursday. Lieut. Blakey, U. S. A., is awaiting the arrival of the two batteries. He will take charge of the volunteers and instruct them.

Signal Corps Kept Busy.

Capt. Chandler, the Signal Corps instructor, was busy with his wireless telegraph work to-day. He had all the paraphernalia ready for the establishment of a station on the hill above camp, and will probably have the apparatus in working order before the end of the week. Capt. Chandler and Capt. Kerth and Cowane have expressed admiration for the District soldiers.

The following assignments were made this afternoon for the joint maneuvers of the militia and coast artillery at Forts Washington and Hunt:

Coast Artillery reserves at Fort Washington, Md.: Company E, Second Regiment, Capt. Edward Barn; Company F, Second Regiment, Capt. R. D. Duff; Company G, Second Regiment, Capt. C. V.

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